

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 9-15 have been added. By the above amendment, the specification has been amended to place it in better form for examination. Claims 9-15 have been added to further define the subject invention. Wherefore an early and favorable first Office Action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

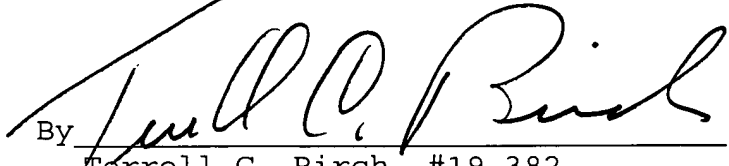
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Terrell C. Birch, #19,382

TCB/STW/ph
1248-712PUS1

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000